

# EL PASO HERALD

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No. 97 To the Secretary.

## No Mayor So Corrupt As That

AN EFFORT to defend the present system of control of the public schools by an irresponsible board of trustees, nominated and appointed by an irresponsible political boss—trustees accountable to nobody and last of all to the people who pay the taxes and sustain the schools—is an effort to defend the indefensible. The question of changing the system so as to put the appointing power in the hands of the mayor involves a fundamental principle in popular government: that the more officials there are subject to popular "elections," the less attention is paid to individual fitness and the more likelihood there is of turning the offices over to unfit persons. As the number of elective offices diminishes, the ability and disposition of the people to investigate for themselves and to question the individual fitness of candidates, increases. It needs no argument to show that the people in general, the mass of voters, will choose and think and vote more intelligently if they have only one man to elect, the mayor for instance, than they will if they have 30 or 40 men to elect.

Under our present system of municipal government no man can hereafter be elected mayor who is not trustworthy and of good repute in the community. It is unthinkable that the dominant party would try to force upon the people, under our present system, a corrupt man as mayor. There is a reserve power in the voting community that could and would prevent such a calamity.

We may not always secure as mayor the best man for the place, but it is unthinkable that the voters of El Paso would elect as mayor a man so corrupt, so shameless, and so low as to abuse his appointing power as to school trustees to the detriment of the public schools.

The proper conduct of school affairs is so vital to the welfare of the community that no mayor in a position of responsibility would dare to abuse his power in this direction.

The fundamental trouble now is that there is no man in a position of responsibility in connection with the schools. One or two hundred out of 6000 voters cast a perfunctory ballot for the trustees who are really selected and appointed by the political boss. These men go into office with the knowledge that they are responsible to nobody but the boss. Any attempt to fall back on their alleged responsibility to "the people" is laughable, a quibble that deceives nobody.

When the mayor is given power to appoint school trustees, with the limitation that he can appoint only a few each year and cannot possibly during any year change the whole complexion of the board, then it will be found that there is a responsible head to the school system, a man whom the people can hold to account. Under such conditions the affairs of the schools will be conducted in the open, with the same wisdom of expenditure and accuracy of accounting that must characterize any well conducted municipal government.

Our public schools have been the private snap of an irresponsible and unofficial political boss long enough. It is time now to create a responsible head who will feel himself accountable to the people for the wise and honest expenditure of the \$200,000 a year the schools cost, and for the adequate professional supervision and constant growth along modern lines which our people demand of the public schools.

President Taft has appointed a southern man and an eastern man to the supreme court. There will be two more vacancies to fill and the west should certainly have a strong representative on the court.

Probably the Texan who shot his father-in-law on the day of his wedding just wanted to show them that he wasn't going to have any family interference, and believed it a good thing to start out right.

## Neglecting Our Own People

INVESTIGATIONS by the city health department of the habitations of Spanish speaking citizens in the lower part of town are disclosing a frightful state of affairs. Approximately one-half of all the domiciles inspected have been found to be "uninhabitable" and "unsanitary." This condition reflects most unfavorably on previous administration of the city health department, and is hardly creditable to the department of building inspection, for this condition is nothing new, but has been known in a general way to exist during every month and every year of the past. Attention has frequently been called to it by The Herald, by physicians, by visitors of the Charity association, and by unofficial investigators.

The Herald has repeatedly pointed out that the death rate in that section is higher than the death rate in a like area in any other city in the United States. It is a humiliating confession; but the only way to bring about reform in such matters is to drive the truth home to the people.

Now that the reports of inspections have become a matter of public record, the question arises, What is going to be done about it? It will do very little good to order these poor people out of their homes into the streets or to try to impose upon them conditions which it is physically impossible for them to meet. The ones to go after are the landlords—owners in many cases of large tracts on which they have built or allowed others to build "uninhabitable" and "unsanitary" tenements, which they lease to Mexicans at an annual rental enormous as compared with the actual investment. If notices are to be served, serve them on the landlords. If arrests are to be made, arrest the landlords. If fines are to be imposed, fine the landlords.

The building ordinances of the city amply cover this condition, and all it needs is strict and unrelenting enforcement of the laws. There are very few owners of the "uninhabitable and unsanitary" tenements in Chihuahuita who are unable to pay for the necessary improvements. To allow these conditions to persist any longer without making every possible effort to bring about improvement is to confess that we have grown callous to shame and criminally careless of the well being of our own people.

And it is going to be a "made in El Paso" dam all right. Reclamation men say it will if the El Paso cement meets requirements. Anything made in El Paso meets requirements.

The president of the New York Central was a section hand in his youth, the head of the Frisco system was the driver of a scraper on a grading crew, the president of the Chicago & Northwestern railroad was a telegraph operator, and the head of the Great Northern-Northern Pacific was a roustabout on the docks. Such opportunities are as open and as frequent today as ever for the young man with initiative and staying power.

## UNCLE WALT'S Denatured Poem

"Then scatter seeds of kindness," I heard a pilgrim sing; and then, with human blindness, he scattered 'tother thing. He scattered seeds of sorrow, complaining at his lot; and they will grow tomorrow, and thrive where he has wrought. How often we have sent it, from thoughtless lips, that song! And if we only meant it, 'twould help the world along. We drone a noble anthem into the weeping night; we learn our hymns and chant them as cultured parrots might; we deal in platitudes in mass; and all is tinkling cymbals, and all is sounding brass. In careless words we riot, and life would be less sore if tongues would but be quiet, and the heart say more.

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## Ella Wheeler Wilcox On a Quick Temper and Its Many Evils

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THE most stubborn fault to overcome, perhaps, in the list of human frailties is a quick temper. In every score of men and women taken at random, from the lowest to the highest classes, 19 are proved to be easily irritated, enraged or made resentful by trifling and trivial things which are so much more difficult to bear with composure than great troubles.

You who read these words are saying to yourself, perhaps, that they do not apply to you; that you are never put out of temper even by serious matters.

Yet, set a watch upon your mind for one day and discover the truth, and then you will be in a position to profit by this little discussion of an almost universal fault.

An erroneous impression has largely prevailed in the world that a quick temper indicated "spirit" and was more or less a mark of high qualities.

I have heard parents speak of this tendency of a child to fly into a passion as a certain noble pride, which the child was not slow to perceive.

Our educational institutions do not seem to regard the fault as one to treat seriously and our religious teachers deal gently with it.

Culture bids us control our exhibition of temper, but does not tell us how necessary it is to overcome the feeling within.

In the philosophy of the ancient philosophers we find valuable counsels with are based upon scientific facts regarding the emotion of anger. Here is a quotation from one of the teachers from the land which we call heaven—

"If a man does evil to us we instantly want to react evil, and this impulse uses up the fine material out of which the mind-stuff is made, and vitiates its power. Every reaction in the form of anger, hatred or ill will, every evil thought or deed, is so much loss to the power of the mind. Each time we control such a thought, or feeling, it is a direct gain to the mind-power. Not only do we gain control of ourselves, but it is just so much good energy stored up in our favor; this piece of energy will be converted into the higher powers."

Still sooth the same teaching tells us: "We must have friendship for all, mercy to those in misfortune, happiness for the happy and pity for the wicked."

## Disillusionment Of The Honeymoon

The Week With His Folks By Mabel Herbert Urner

IT WAS the third morning after their arrival that Helen awoke with a blinding headache.

"I don't think I can go down to breakfast."

"Shall I have mother send you up something? Warmen, busy as they are, they'll be sure to get you something."

"Only some coffee. I couldn't eat anything."

"Sure you don't want anything else? When a few moments later he started down."

"No," faintly. "Only some strong coffee. That may help."

She thought it would be sent at once, but it wasn't. Her head throbbed cruelly. She got up and darkened the room, and then lay down again.

He came up from breakfast. "How's your headache now? Did the coffee help?"

"It didn't come." "Why, I told mother to send it. I guess she forgot. I'll go down and see."

Did they care so little? She turned her face to the wall. She was hurt—hurt all through. He had not even troubled to see that it was sent. He had merely given the order and then forgotten all about it. And his mother, too, had forgotten! Did they care so little? She was a bride on her first visit to his people—was she to receive no more attention than this?

Warren came back now, followed by the maid with the coffee.

"I am glad to go on an errand for father—that's why he couldn't bring it. Mother asked if you would like a headache powder?"

"No—they never help. I'll just have to make the best of it." She was trying to drink the coffee Jane had left by the bed. But the cup was cracked and the handle of the coffee pot was wet and sticky, and there was a large brown stain on the napkin where the coffee had spilled over on the way up stairs.

She thought of the dainty tray her mother would have brought her and the wave of homesickness that she had been fighting all morning swept over her.

Parson J. L. Williams, of the negro Methodist church, who shot at last night by Della Thorne, one of his congregation whom he had charged with fraud. The bullet missed him and the woman made good her escape.

Agent T. E. Hunt, of the S. P., has gone to Arizona on a short business trip.

Jay Wilford, of Fort Worth, has filed suit for \$25,000 damages against the local electric light company for injuries alleged to have been sustained by falling over a live wire.

Ed Fink has declared his intention to resign as chief of police, following an investigation by a special committee appointed by the council.

Benigno Leya, who escaped from the Juarez jail, where he was being held on a charge of murder, was captured at Chihuahua this morning and will be brought back to Juarez.

The Fourth of July banner still hangs across El Paso street and has become an eyesore.

It is expected that when engineer de Ybarola returns from Mexico City, it will be as engineer in chief of the International dam.

The firm of L. Freudenthal and company, of Las Cruces, has assigned to Charles Solomon.

The Texas sheriffs are holding their annual convention at San Antonio. There is a call for the city council to put the plaza fountain in order so that it will run.

Then we are instructed how to control the breath and the body in order to gain concentration and to obtain complete mastery of the mind.

All this is valuable and important knowledge to a human being anxious to make the best use of his life and to increase the happiness and goodness of the human family by becoming good and happy himself.

It does not matter to what creed we subscribe, or what belief is ours—this knowledge is a divine fact is worthy of our effort to obtain it.

In the present hurried, heated and excitable method of life, it is a most severe effort to keep amiable, kind and full of good feeling to all human beings, as we push and crowd through the world in pursuit of what we think is success.

If any simple, healthful method is offered us, no matter from what source or century, let us be thankful. It is a thousand and five thousand years ago that we know them.

There are some things we know better today than anyone knew a thousand or fifteen years ago.

Other things were known better a thousand and five thousand years ago than we know them.

Concentration Needed. Concentration was one of these things. The tendency of modern times is to scatter our mind forces—and to render us irritable, resentful and ill-tempered. Here is a little formula which will help us all in our search for control, composure and concentration:

Sit in a quiet room in a comfortable chair, erect, with the hands resting lightly on the knees.

Close the eyes, inhale a deep breath through the nostrils until counting ten, hold the breath while counting ten, and slowly exhale the same length of time. Think, as you inhale, that you are taking in from God's infinite good health, good will, success, happiness and usefulness, and making them your own.

Do this for five minutes only, morning and night, and see if your nerves do not become more under your control and the task of keeping amiable less difficult.

Of course you will not become perfect in a day, week or year. You will have your ups and downs, your setbacks and your discouragements. But you will be helped and benefited by this simple exercise to a surprising degree.

Try it.

her. Oh, if she were only home! If she could only have the care and attention and love her mother always gave her!

She pushed back the coffee almost unconsciously.

"Aren't you going to drink it?" He was standing awkwardly by the bed, his whole attitude implied that he was ill at ease, that he didn't know quite what to do. This was the first time Helen had been at all ill since their marriage, and he felt it was a situation with which he could not cope.

When he had the headache, he wanted only to be left alone, but he vaguely felt that Helen wanted something more.

"Aren't you going to drink any of it?" he said more awkwardly.

"Not now—I don't believe I can."

He lingered uncertainly.

There was a long silence. He felt a growing sense of irritation, partly because of his awkwardness and his conscious inability to rise to the occasion. Surely he could not be expected to stand there in a darkened room, a mere headache was not so serious as that.

"If there isn't anything I can do for you, I think I'd better go over to the apartment and see how the painters are getting along with that dining room work."

"Very well."

"I'll be back around one. I hope you'll be better by then."

He lingered uncertainly, but as she made no comment he went out, closing the door after him.

She waited until his steps died down the hall—and then she burst into tears.

"If there isn't anything I can do for you?" And she had waited him to come and kneel by the bed and kiss her hands and tell her how sorry he was that she was ill—how worried and anxious he was.

She thought of all the petting and caressing that every young wife wants when she is sick (however slight that sickness may be), but not one husband in a thousand knows how to give—and certainly Warren did not.

## 14 YEARS AGO TO-DAY

(From The Herald of this date, 1896)

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## Abolition, Compromise Or Reform Interests England

X.—THE BRITISH CRISIS.

LONDON, England, July 15.—What shall be done with the house of lords? Will it be abolished or reformed, or will there be a compromise? Premier Asquith and the majority of the house of commons say that the power of the lords to veto legislative action by the commons must be abolished. In other words, they would leave the house of lords in its present form, but would strip it of legislative power. Lord Rosebery and the majority of the peers, seconded by Mr. Balfour and the minority of the commons, say that the house of lords must be reformed. They would alter the form of the house of lords, modernizing its constitution, but would give it even greater power of obstruction than it now possesses or than it has possessed since the time of Charles I. King George says there must be a compromise.

The situation forcibly illustrates the faculty of the British mind for self-restriction, for seeming to do one thing while really doing another. The Liberals, enemies of the house of lords, seek to maintain its present form, to modify its constitution and all, while its friends, who claim that it is a necessary part of the constitution, are clamoring for a reform which will wipe out its absurd anachronisms. The practical result is a considerable degree of confusion in the public mind and the presentation of a host of feasible opportunities for a compromise.

English Throne Unstable. England is the land of compromise. Every foundation is a series of compromises. The principle of give and take, in connection with the doctrine of inviolability of contract, is the cardinal principle of British political practice. Every question arises, the people take sides, there is a great fight, each side swears never to surrender, and for months or perhaps for years, the battle wages furiously. Then, one day, the captains of the opposing hosts meet each other and formulate a compromise. Instantly both parties accept it, and it becomes a part of the British constitution.

That, in epitome, is the political history of England. In the ordinary course of events, history would repeat itself and Mr. Asquith and Mr. Balfour would obey the command of their new king and rig up a compromise which would settle instantly the mooted question of what to do with the house of lords.

But if England is the land of compromise, then surely Ireland is not, and in this particular problem Ireland holds the whip hand, and Ireland will not compromise until after it has been beaten to death. The compromising English have been endeavoring for upward of 700 years to effect a compromise with the Irish, or, failing in that, to beat them to death. As yet they have done neither.

Ireland in Control. And now Ireland, a part and parcel of the Kingdom of Great Britain, represented in the British parliament against its will, always demanding a divorce, is for the time at least in control of the situation. Mr. Asquith holds office as prime minister by virtue of a majority in the house of commons made up of Irish Nationalists. At any moment John Redmond may lead his Irish followers across the aisle and end the days of the Asquith government.

The Irish are vitally in earnest in their support of the proposition to abolish the veto of the lords. Once get the house of lords out of the way and Ireland can have its long prayer for home rule. For this reason Mr. Asquith is not at liberty to pursue the ancient British course and consent to a compromise in which he gives as much as he receives.

King George Interested. King George is directly and personally interested in securing a compromise of the vexing question between a lords and the commons, because if these do the king himself must settle the question. And it is entirely possible that the permanence of the throne itself may be involved.

If King George should promise Mr. Asquith to appoint a sufficient number of peers to make the will of the commons effective in the upper house, in the event of another Liberal victory at the polls, then the throne would stand in England as the last survivor of the ancient hereditary institutions. It would mean that in the future the masses would be at liberty to govern England without respect to the privilege, but prejudice of the classes, which is a step to a certain degree. They also desire to establish the house of lords as a basis for further consideration.

Peers May Be Reduced. The Conservative position is by no means as clearly defined. Three years ago when the rejection by the lords of the education bill had precipitated the first skirmish of the present war, the lords took thought among themselves how they might conserve their effective power as a bulwark of class privilege by reforming themselves. Several propositions were made and a committee of 25 was appointed, under the chairmanship of Lord Asquith, which recommended to the lords a scheme of reform. According to this plan the house of lords would be reduced to about 50 members, composed of representatives of "peers of the realm" elected from the whole body of the peerage, not for life, but for a single parliament. No action has been taken on this report, and, indeed, it was intended only as a basis for further consideration.

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